

OLD DIXON LANDMARK COMING DOWN

November 24th
1960



—Photo by Thunderbird Studios

One of the oldest landmarks in Dixon came down last week with the wrecking of the old Presbyterian Church at the corner of Mayes and South First. According to Mrs. Mary Little, who was born in 1874, the church was constructed in 1878, several years after the town of Dixon had been moved from Silveyville. Mrs. Little recalls that as a three or four year old she used to skip from her home near the present IOOF building to watch daily progress of the church.

"Dr. Alexander was the first preacher, and Dr. Evans (he was an M.D.) led the singing. Dr. Evans lived in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Morris."

As old as the Presbyterean Church was, Mrs. Little says there are two older ones. The Methodist Church was moved along with the houses from Silveyville in 1868, and the red brick Community Church was built prior to 1878.

The demolished church building had been used in recent years as a youth building by the Community Church but was finally declared unsafe.

Mrs. Little adds a brief picture of the town in this era.

A man named Hirsh had a harness shop on the corner where the post office now stands. On the north corner of the block was a brewery and between were a number of small houses, some of which were China houses and the rest were houses of ill fame. We called it Barbary Coast.

The senior Mr. Carpenter moved his shop from Silveyville when Dixon was started. King and Brinkerhoff had a two-story hotel where the Bank of Dixon now stands (Bank of America).

May Day picnics were held on the west side of the railroad on Mr. Mayes' land.

The first Odd Fellows hall was built on a lot on the south side of my Dad's drugstore (Mr. Kirby). After the fire in 1884 he sold the corner to the Odd Fellows.

There was a Congregational Church on the lot where the McDermott house now stands (corner of Jackson and West A). It was later moved over near the school house for a primary school. Then the Protestant Church was built.

There was a two-story lodging house back of the depot where the Farmers Exchange nursery is now. That was where the big fire of '84 started (which levelled the downtown).

The biggest livery stable was where the frosty drive-in is.